J.J. ABRAMS

ALEX KURTZMAN & ROBERTO ORCI

PRESENT

FRINGE™

#1 OF 6
OCT 08

WILDSTORM

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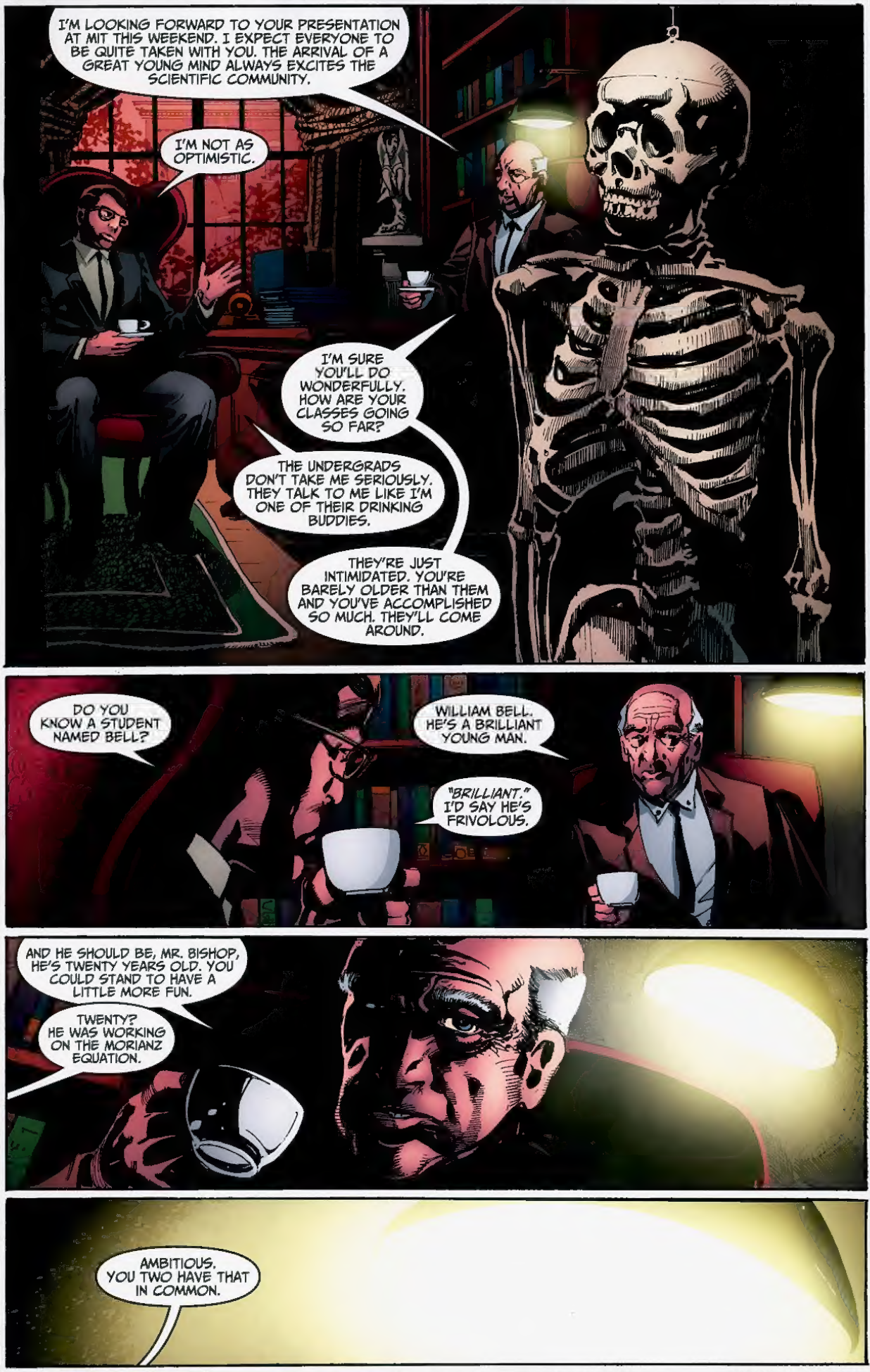
HARVARD UNIVERSITY.
Welcome Class of '74
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
YOUNG MAN.
DON'T YOU HAVE A CLASS RIGHT NOW?
YES, SIR.
LIKE MINDS
WRITERS:
ZACK WHEDON & JULIA CHO
ARTIST:
TOM MANDRAKE
COLORIST:
CARRIE STRACHAN
LETTERER:
WES ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR:
KRISTY QUINN
STORY CONSULTANTS:
ATHENA WICKHAM & DAVE BARONOFF
EDITORS:
BEN ABERNATHY AND HANK KANALZ

SORRY I'M LATE.
I TRUST EVERYONE HAD A GOOD SUMMER?
WELL. THIS IS, UM, PHYSICS 301 AND WE HAVE A LOT TO COVER. OUR SYLLABUS INCLUDES DEGENERATE FERMI SYSTEMS, NATURAL UNITS, THE TIME INDEPENDENT PERTURBATION THEORY--
BUT WHO ARE YOU?
OR IS THAT NOT ON THE SYLLABUS?
IT'S WALTER. WALTER BISHOP.
AND I'LL BE YOUR PROFESSOR THIS SEMESTER.

PROMISING CHANGES IN THE MOLECULAR SUBSTRATE--
LOOKING AT THE DEVIL...
WHAT THE--?
I WANT TO--
THANK YOU FOR--
--LETTING--
CLIK
HUH?

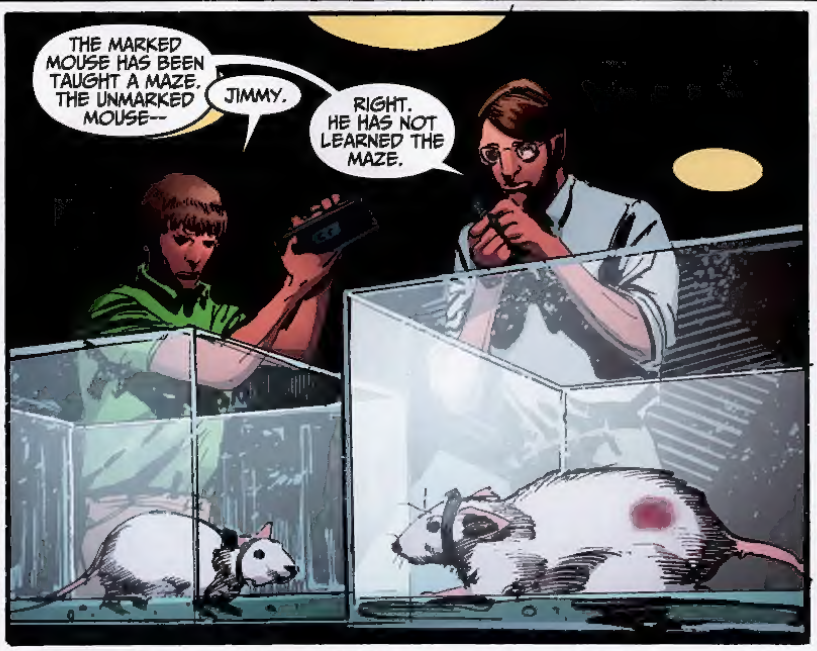
WHAT THE HELL?
IT'S TOO LOUD. I'M TRYING TO WORK.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DOING?
ASIDE FROM DISTRACTING ME?
SLY STONE HELPS ME THINK.
IT HELPS YOU THINK.
STOP-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THERE. NOW YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK.
SON OF A--
WAIT A SECOND--HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST DID IT.
THAT WAS THE MORIANZ EQUATION. ONLY FIVE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE EVER SOLVED IT.
I GUESS THAT MAKES IT SIX.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CHECK MY WORK.
YOU'RE WALTER BISHOP, AREN'T YOU? I'M WILLIAM BELL. I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU.
NOW WE'VE MET.


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PRESENTATION AT MIT THIS WEEKEND. I EXPECT EVERYONE TO BE QUITE TAKEN WITH YOU. THE ARRIVAL OF A GREAT YOUNG MIND ALWAYS EXCITES THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.
I'M NOT AS OPTIMISTIC.
I'M SURE YOU'LL DO WONDERFULLY. HOW ARE YOUR CLASSES GOING SO FAR?
THE UNDERGRADS DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY. THEY TALK TO ME LIKE I'M ONE OF THEIR DRINKING BUDDIES.
THEY'RE JUST INTIMIDATED. YOU'RE BARELY OLDER THAN THEM AND YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH. THEY'LL COME AROUND.
DO YOU KNOW A STUDENT NAMED BELL?
WILLIAM BELL. HE'S A BRILLIANT YOUNG MAN.
"BRILLIANT." I'D SAY HE'S FRIVOLOUS.
AND HE SHOULD BE, MR. BISHOP, HE'S TWENTY YEARS OLD. YOU COULD STAND TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE FUN.
TWENTY? HE WAS WORKING ON THE MORIANZ EQUATION.
AMBITIOUS. YOU TWO HAVE THAT IN COMMON.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD CREATE A WAY FOR HUMANS TO INTERFACE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE INFORMATION MUCH AS THE NEW INTRANET COMPUTERS DO.
...NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION OF DATA FROM ONE PERSON TO THE NEXT...
WE SPEND YEARS GATHERING BASIC INFORMATION. IMAGINE IF YOU COULD RECEIVE ALL OF THAT IN AN HOUR.
IMAGINE HOW QUICKLY WE COULD ADVANCE AS A SPECIES--
THIS IS SCIENCE-FICTION.
IT ISN'T, SIR.
IT ISN'T.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I SAW YOUR PRESENTATION AT MIT. I FOUND IT FASCINATING.
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE.
I'D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IF I COULD. HOW CLOSE ARE YOU?
I'M CLOSE--OR MAYBE NOT CLOSE AT ALL.
I'VE BEEN USING MICE, LINKING THE HIPPOCAMPUS TO THE SENSORY CORTEX USING A SYNTHETIC NEURAL TRANSMITTER, BUT IT'S NOT TAKING. IT DOESN'T WORK. ALSO, THEY IMMEDIATELY DIE.
OF WHAT?
COULD BE THE WIRES I'M INSERTING INTO THEIR BRAIN. COULD BE THE ELECTROCUTION. I HAVEN'T CONCLUDED.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
HE'S A MOUSE.
LOOKS LIKE A JIMMY. POOR GUY. HE'S TERRIFIED.
WHAT?
HE'S SCARED.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
YOU CAN SENSE IT. YOU CAN JUST FEEL IT COMING OFF HIM. HIS SOUL IS IN TORMENT.
THAT'S COMPLETE NONSENSE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SOUL...
...BUT YOU MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING.


THE MARKED MOUSE HAS BEEN TAUGHT A MAZE. THE UNMARKED MOUSE--
JIMMY.
RIGHT. HE HAS NOT LEARNED THE MAZE.

I WANTED TO TRANSFER THE KNOWLEDGE ELECTRONICALLY, BUT THE TRANSMITTERS WEREN'T FIRING. IT HADN'T OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEIR BRAIN FUNCTION HAD SHUT DOWN. LIKE YOU SAID, THEY WERE AFRAID.
SENSORY OVERLOAD. THEY'D GONE INTO SHOCK.
EXACTLY. I WAS TRANSMITTING ONE BLANK CANVAS TO ANOTHER.

SO I HAD YOU ADMINISTER A SMALL DOSE OF PHENOBARBITAL COMBINED WITH LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE. THEY SHOULD REMAIN DOCILE AND THEIR PATHWAYS SHOULD ACCEPT THE TRANSMISSIONS. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR IT TO KICK IN...

WILLIAM...?
DID THAT WALL JUST MOVE?

PAY ATTENTION. I NEED YOU TO ADMINISTER THE CHARGE TO THE MARKED MOUSE USING THESE WIRES. BE CAREFUL.
OKAY.

INSERTING THE NEURAL TRANSMITTER NOW. READY FOR THE ELECTRIC CHARGE.
WILLIAM?

WHOOPS.
IT'S POSSIBLE YOU ABSORBED SOME OF THE LSD WHILE HANDLING IT.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT. I FEEL KIND OF...

ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... IT'S STRANGE. I'M HAVING DÉJÀ-VU, THIS IMAGE--THIS MEMORY FLASHING IN MY HEAD OF A BIRD, A GOLDEN BIRD. I DON'T KNOW... THERE'S A MAN BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE?
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. IT'S ALL... BLURRY. IT'S LIKE A GOLDEN BIRD OR SOMETHING. I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD. I'M JUST... OUT OF IT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME, LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.
YEAH. SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.
WE'LL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.
TO BE CONTINUED...

WHAT... WHAT IS IT?
EL TACO
EL TACO
WELCOME TO LITTLETON, NEBRASKA
OH GOD... THIS IS SO HARD.
...ARE YOU OKAY, FRANK?
SARAH... I...
--WILL YOU MARRY ME?
CLAP-CLAP-CLAP
I LOVE YOU, FRANK
"I LOVE YOU TOO.."

...SARAH?
OH MY GOD...
BICCIE

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO ME?!
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT, JONES.
JONES?
JONES
HELP! THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE!

I JUST WANNA GO HOME... I JUST WANNA...
SARAH... I HAD THE CRAZIEST DREAM...
CH-CLINK
...NO...
WH--WHERE'S EVERYONE GOING?
IT'S WEDNESDAY. IT'S OUR PHONE CALL.
SARAH...

HELLO.
SARAH, IT'S ME.
WHO'S THIS?
IT'S FRANK, SARAH. IT'S FRANK. I'M IN PRISON--I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BUT I-I DON'T LOOK LIKE ME, SARAH--MY FACE-- I LOOK DIFFERENT. I NEED HELP!
WHA-- IS THIS SOME SORT OF PRANK?
DAMN IT, IT'S ME. FRANK.
UMM... FRANK'S RIGHT HERE--
THA-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, SARAH--LISTEN TO ME--
CLICK
HELLO?! HELLO?!
THAT WAS SO... STRANGE.
I NEED TO MAKE ANOTHER CALL!
I KNOW, JONES. I KNOW.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
I DO. BUT UNLESS YOU'RE BLEEDING OUT YOUR EYES IN THE INFIRMARY-- NOBODY'S GONNA LET YOU DO THAT. SO JUST STOP YELLING. PLEASE. YOU'RE GIVING ME A HEADACHE.
JONES

TWO HOURS LATER.
JONES
SMI
CLA
MAY I SIT HERE?
SURE.
DO ME A FAVOR, WILLYA?
WHAT'S UP?
HIT ME IN THE FACE AS HARD AS YOU CAN.
NU-UH.
LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS THE HARD WAY...

JONES
THE HELL?!
JONES
HERE IT COMES...
PAIN

THE STORM FRONT

In fine WildStorm Studios fashion, I'd like to introduce two of the latest additions to the artists and creators here at WildStorm proper in La Jolla, California. They've actually been with the studio for some time now, but in keeping with our traditions, we kept them in solitary—half-submerged Vronsky-style, locked and chained to an iron desk, working on the DCU MMO—letting them into the sunshine only to buff all our rides until they were hard and lean and mean enough to withstand the final challenge of the WildStorm Octagon.

Fresh out of school, the young Livio Ramondelli (pronounced LEE-vee-oh RAH-man-deli) has actually been with the studio since the 2007 San Diego Comic Con and has been producing great stuff for the video game as a concept artist. There's nothing I can show you right now but trust me, it's cool stuff! He's also a crazy movie buff and more importantly, a passionate comics fan.

Joining Livio (pronounced LEE-vee-oh—reminding you again 'cause you will mispronounce it LIV-ee-oh at least 5 or 6 times before it makes sense) is "overnight success" Eduardo Nuñez, who has also been here for several months.

Eddie has been tearing it up already, working on the DCU online game and honing his skills as an artist to become the next new shiny thing, grande-style. His work has a bold, powerful style combining the big, meaty shapes of manga with the mad energy found in well, frankly, graphitti art. It's fresh and it's got flow and his coloring and rendering skills have made quantum leaps in just the short time he has been here.

While they have become an integral part of the MMO team, I really expect them to leap out and dazzle the readers with their work in the very near future!

JIM LEE

IN STORES AUGUST: AUTHORITY #1, CASEY BLUE: BEYOND TOMORROW #4, CHUCK #3, DE... DREAMWAR #5, EX MACHINA #38, FRINGE #1, GEN13 #21, LOST BOYS: REIGN OF FROGS #4, SECRET HISTORY OF THE AUTHORITY: HAWKSMOOR #4, STORMWATCH: PHD #13, STORM... ...ADISE #2, SUPERNATURAL: RISING SON #5, WILDCATS #2, WORLD OF WARCRAFT #10

OUT THIS MONTH!

COLLECTED EDITIONS:
ABC PRIMER
DEATHBLOW TPB
MIDNIGHTER: ANTHEM TPB

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more visit us at wildstorm.com

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NEXT ISSUE:
FRINGE #2

WILDSTORM

ONE CALL, JONES.
JONES
YOU HAVE REACHED A NUMBER THAT HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED. PLEASE HANG UP AND TRY AGAIN. YOU HAVE REACHED A NUMBER...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME...?
CH-CLINK

SOMEWHERE IN MONTANA...
HOW YOU FEELING, JAKE?
READY WHEN YOU ARE, DOC.
VERY WELL, THEN.
COMMENCING EXPERIMENT 47A, TRIAL 16.

HAVE FUN BEING HANDSOME FOR ONCE...
I'LL TELL YOUR WIFE HELLO.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
...STILL JAKE, DOC.
Negative transference

HONEY...?

OH MY GOD...

мы не имеем времени!
сделайте кое-что!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE.
что с Вами?
THE PRISONER
WRITTEN BY
ALEX KATSNELSON & DANIELLE DISPALTRO
PENCILS BY
SIMON COLEBY
INKS BY
CLIFF RATHBURN & COLEBY
COLORS BY
JIM CHARALAMPIDIS
LETTERS BY
WES ABBOTT
STORY CONSULTANTS:
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